

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CANBER 01410 050457Z

14-10  
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 /071 W  
----- 021774

R 050419Z MAR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5196  
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
DOD WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
CINCPAC

S E C R E T CANBERRA 1410

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1.  
TAGS: MARR, MPOL, AS, NZ, SN, UK  
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF CONTROL OF STORES  
BASIN AND FUEL DEPOT IN SINGAPORE

REF: WELLINGTON 0568

1. WASHINGTON STORY BY NZPA STAFF CORRESPONDENT BRUCE KOHN  
ON NEW ZEALAND PRESENCE IN SINGAPORE (REFTEL) IS SIMILAR TO  
STORY DATED WASHINGTON FEB 25 AND PUBLISHED IN MELBOURNE  
HERALD OF FEB 26, WITH HEADLINE QTE CHIP IN FOR ASIAN BASE,  
SAYS U.S. END QTE. HERALD ARTICLE BY PETER COSTIGAN BE-  
GINS, QTE THE U.S. WANTS AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND TO TAKE  
A BIGGER SHARE OF THE MANPOWER AND FINANCIAL COSTS OF THE  
NAVAL BASE AT SINGAPORE. END QTE FROM APPEARANCES, COSTI-  
GAN ARTICLE COVERS MUCH THE SAME GROUND AS NEW ZEALAND ARTI-  
CLE WHICH HAS CAUSED EMBARRASSMENT IN WELLINGTON.

2. JOHN KNIGHT, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITION  
SECRET

SECRET

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LEADER SNEDDEN, CALLED EMBOFF MAR 4 TO ASK WHAT WERE THE

FACTS BEHIND THE COSTIGAN ARTICLE. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT PUBLICLY-KNOWN BRITISH DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM SINGAPORE HAS RAISED ISSUE OF FUTURE DISPOSITION OF FACILITIES, AND THIS IS MAIN QUESTION INVOLVED. HOWEVER, U.S. DOES NOT CONTROL BASE AND NEVER HAS CONTROLLED BASE, WHICH HAS MOST RECENTLY BEEN UNDER ANZUK MANAGEMENT. U.S. IS, OF COURSE, INTERESTED IN WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS IMPORTANT FACILITY. KNIGHT INDICATED THAT OPPOSITION MAY ASK QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT BASED ON COSTIGAN ARTICLE, DESIGNED TO ELICIT STATEMENT OF LABOR GOVERNMENT POLICY ON ISSUE. LATER ON MARCH 4 ANDREW PEACOCK, OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO EMBOFF FOR EXPLANATION OF MATTER TOUCHED ON IN COSTIGAN ARTICLE AND INDICATED HE WOULD RAISE ISSUE IN PARLIAMENT AT SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY.  
HARROP

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, FUELING SYSTEMS, MILITARY BASES, NAVAL SHIPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** MARR, MPOL, AS, NZ, SN, UK, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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